

22 Southampton St., Bloomsbury, July 31, 1867.

Dear William:

It is now a week since we returned from Glasgow to London, having been baffled in our expectations of making a Highland tour in consequence of the unpropitious state of the weather. Scarcely any one is aware that I am again in the city, (for I have kept quite secluded,) and, therefore, the callers upon us have been very few. This has enabled me to get some rest, which I very much needed, though I still feel and look somewhat jaded. Miss Estlin, of Bristol, was with us nearly all the time from Thursday to Monday, when she returned home. It showed how much she wanted to see us all by coming so far expressly for that purpose. On Sunday forenoon I went to hear Rev. Wm. H. Channing preach at Kensington, she accompanying me, ~~she~~ being intimately acquainted with him, as he preached last year at Bristol. He is trying to start a Unitarian church in that quarter of London; but I should think he would be entirely discouraged, as we found him with only a baker's dozen for an audience, in a room no larger than our parlor at Rockledge, with chairs to be occupied at that, and with ordinary looking people. A litany was read and recited as long as that used in the Established Church service, and apparently the same; including a specific recognition of the rightful reign of kings and princes, and complimenting "our gracious Queen Victoria and the Royal Family." Think of this for an American, and especially for one claiming to be a reformer! I did not enjoy the services at all.

To oblige Miss Estlin, Fanny and Frank went with her to hear Mr. Channing, but scarcely found an apology for an audience. He is not adapted to make a popular impression, and it seems to me must fail in his present attempt, after a few months. I went to take tea with Mrs. Thompson, (Mr. T. being at Leeds,) and spent the evening with her and Edith. She is feeling very miserably, and has cause to feel so for reasons which I may not here put to paper; but she has my deepest sympathy, and I am now satisfied that she has not had justice done her in regard to home affairs. The future looks very dark for the family; for it is a very serious question what he can and what he will do for a living. Here nothing opens to him whatever; and, for various reasons, it is utterly useless to attempt to raise any sort of testimonial in his behalf, or procure any subscriptions. If he returns to the United States, it is very problematical whether, in his disabled and broken condition, he can enter the lecturing field to any extent, or to popular acceptance; and should he go back, there are grave and weighty reasons why he should take Mrs. Thompson and Edith along with him. I am distressed about them. Of course, this is only for the family.

I took cold at Glasgow, and have had a sore throat and hoarseness ever since, though not badly. Fanny and Frank continue to have excellent health. Harry came to us on Monday evening, and we are now having a pleasant time of it all together. He talks of remaining here a week or two days, having given up his rooms at Paris, and then going to Munich to see the exact condition of his father, with reference to the future. All send love to all the dear ones at home.
Your affectionate Father.